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9**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: MABUCHI et al

Serial No.: 09/838,139

Filed: April 20, 2001

For: Absorption Refrigerator and Production Method Thereof

Group: 3744

Examiner: Shulman, M.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATIONAssistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

August 23, 2002

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed April 23, 2002, in connection with the above-identified application.

Claims 2 - 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,912,934 to Itoh et al. Applicants traverse this rejection and request reconsideration thereof.

The rejected claims relate to a production method of an absorption refrigerator using a refrigerant and its absorption solution. The claims set forth the step of heating a surface of at least a part of a heat exchanger and high temperature generator in atmosphere (claims 2, 3 and 6) or in an atmosphere in which an oxygen partial pressure or steam partial pressure is higher than atmospheric air (claim 4). This process can form an oxide film on the surface, as more specifically recited in claims 3, 4 and 6. This production method has an effect that a fairly dense film is formed on the surface.

In the Itoh et al '934 patent, on the other hand, the inside wall of a high temperature regenerator is provided with a composite film of molybdenum oxides and iron oxide by, as described in the passage at column 5, lines 45 - 66, subjecting the regenerator to a film-forming operation while exposed to an aqueous lithium molybdate solution. In Example 1 of Itoh et al '934, steel plate is dipped in a film-making tank filled with an aqueous 10% lithium molybdate solution while, in Example 2 of Itoh et al '934, an aqueous 20% lithium molybdate solution is sealed as a film-forming solution into the high temperature regenerator. Thus, the Itoh et al '934 patent does not disclose heating a surface of at least part of a heat exchanger and high temperature regenerator in atmosphere or in an atmosphere in which an oxygen partial pressure or steam partial pressure is higher than atmospheric air, as presently claimed. Accordingly, the Itoh et al '934 patent does not disclose the presently claimed invention.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 5, 7 and 8 are allowed.

Applicants note the Examiner has cited a number of documents as being pertinent to applicants' disclosure. However, since these documents were not applied in rejecting claims formerly in the application, further discussion of these documents is deemed unnecessary.

In view of the foregoing remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of claims now in the application are requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry,

Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 503.34897CC3), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Alan E. Schiavelli
Registration No. 32,087

AES/jla
(703) 312-6600